



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 28, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

MAN CHARGED IN TEMPE BANK ROBBERY

PHOENIX – Ronnie Lee Hoof, 25, recently living in Tempe, Ariz., was charged here today in federal court with Armed Bank Robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank in Tempe, Ariz. in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code Section 2113 (a) and (d) and for Possessing and Use of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime of Violence, in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 924(c).

Hoof made an initial appearance in federal court today before U.S. Magistrate Judge David K. Duncan and is currently in federal custody. A preliminary hearing and detention hearing are scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 9 a.m. in front of U.S. District Judge Larry Anderson.

The complaint alleges that Hoof forced a hostage at gunpoint to drive him to the bank and then held her at gunpoint while demanding money from bank personnel. During the course of the robbery, the complaint alleges that Hoof fired his weapon and injured a bank teller who was taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Hoof then fled with the hostage in her car with approximately \$44,000 in stolen currency until stopped by Tempe Police officers.

A conviction for Armed Bank Robbery carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Possession and Use of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime of Violence carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. Because the complaint alleges that the firearm was discharged during the commission of the crime, the violation of Title 18, U.S. Code Section 924(c) carries mandatory minimum of ten years in prison.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted by the FBI and the Tempe Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Kurt Altman, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-6111M
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-083

-MORE-

2

#